

**Ad hoc Committee on Responsible Contracting
Monday, March 25, 2013
Council Chambers, Beck Municipal Building**

Minutes

Members Present: Toni Moran (Deputy Mayor), Elizabeth Paterson (Mayor), Christopher Paulhus

Other Council Members Present: David Freudmann

Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager, Maria Capriola, Assistant Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of February 25, 2013 were moved by Paulhus, seconded by Moran and approved (Paulhus, Moran) as presented with Paterson abstaining.

2. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Lelah Campo with Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut. Ms. Campo shared her concerns with RCO's (redundancies with state and federal laws, apprenticeship language makes it difficult for many non-union shops to bid on projects). Numerous topics were discussed such as: prevailing wage rates; pre-qualification process for bidding on public projects at the state level; training offered by contractors; safety requirements and practices offered by contractors; worker misclassification; defining "local" in such a way that residents of the area are not excluded from bidding and working on Mansfield projects.

3. OTHER DISCUSSION

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Holinko, Mansfield Depot. Mr. Holinko, a painting contractor, spoke to his company's training and work-site safety practices. Mr. Holinko advocated for no local preference language and spoke to Davis-Bacon wages.

Kyle Stearns, Stearns Rd. Mr. Stearns, an excavating and landscaping contractor, advocated for using local businesses.

Dean Pallotti, Willington, New England Regional Council of Carpenters. Mr. Pallotti offered to assist in coordinating the New England Regional Council of Carpenters guest speaker for a future meeting. He spoke to training and partnerships with trade schools.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike Road. Mr. Hossack stated his opinion that cost and quality are the most important factors to taxpayers.

Paul Sarizon, North Windham. Mr. Sarizon, a local contractor, advocated for not including apprenticeship language in an RCO. Mr. Sarizon stated his concerns that many local contractors do not offer apprenticeship programs and would not be able to bid on Mansfield (public) projects if such language was included in a RCO.

Greg Zlotnick, Wormwood Hill Road. Mr. Zlotnick, a local contractor, spoke to his company's training and safety practices. He also spoke to the importance of quality work and firm reputation.

Mike Taylor, Stonemill Road. Mr. Taylor commended the Town for reviewing this matter (RCO). Mr. Taylor expressed his opinion that he doesn't want to preclude or exclude union or non-union shops from public projects. Mr. Taylor spoke to safety and quality of many local contractors.

Chris Viales, Willimantic. Mr. Viales spoke in support of a RCO, offered suggestions for a RCO, and referenced concerns with private project components of the Storrs Center development.

5. FUTURE AGENDAS

Union representatives and local contractors will be invited to speak at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, Assistant Town Manager
Town of Mansfield